

February 9, 2023

Re: Support for HF 981



To: Members of the House Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Nelson and Committee Members,

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

We support HF 981 which would change the State Building Code to include adult sized changing facilities in public restrooms. This is an issue of great importance to our stakeholders. We have heard for many years about the need for this change and the time to address it is now. Accessibility for people with disabilities has long been overlooked and this is one change we can make to show Minnesotans with disabilities that they are welcome and included in our society.

People with disabilities deserve to have full access to their community and have dignity while getting their care needs met while out in the community. When people with disabilities are included and have more access to their community, all of society benefits. This change will make a big difference in the lives of many people with disabilities.

The Arc Minnesota encourages the committee to pass HF 981.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Director